Allen Winder Williams. Jr.

Foley & Lardner

777 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

April 9, 1999

VIA FACSIMILE

Senator Alberta Darling
Office: Room 516
119 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Re: Flood Victims Tax Equity Bill

Dear Senator Darling:

I learned of the hearing on your Flood Victims Tax Equity bill just this week, and was already scheduled to be out of Wisconsin on business April 14. I hope you will accept this letter as my testimony, and that my absence will not be misconstrued as a lack of interest.

I reside at 8550 North Green Bay Court, just east of highway 57 and south of highway 100 - just east of old Brown Deer Village. The north boundary of my property is South Branch Creek where it flows into the Milwaukee River. My driveway has a concrete culvert/bridge crossing the South Branch Creek. It was constructed about 70 years ago and is still structurally sound. However, the development of land in the Village of Brown Deer and the City of Milwaukee which drain into that South Branch Creek has very substantially changed the flow characteristics of that creek. So much so that the bridge and about 100 feet of my driveway washed out by flooding in 1997, and then again on June 20, 1998. Ironically, the rains today (April 9th) again washed out the repairs to that bridge and driveway. Two years ago, under a DNR grant from the state's urban erosion mitigation program, a South Creek erosion mitigation and repair plan was designed,

and bids to carry out the repairs adjacent to my property alone totaled approximately \$180,000. Those repairs were not carried out because state funding for that program was terminated in about August of 1997. The lowest bid cost to repair just the bridge and driveway, and without any stream erosion repair and mitigation, is in the range of \$60,000.

This damage was caused by flooding, and by flooding which in turn was caused by urbanization and development by or approved by the state and local governments which has all occurred in the recent past. The state should renew funding for the urban erosion grant program and it should provide tax benefits to recognize the extreme costs just some people are required to bear as the result of urbanization and the changes urbanization wreaks on mother nature.

Respectfully,

Allen W. Williams, Jr.



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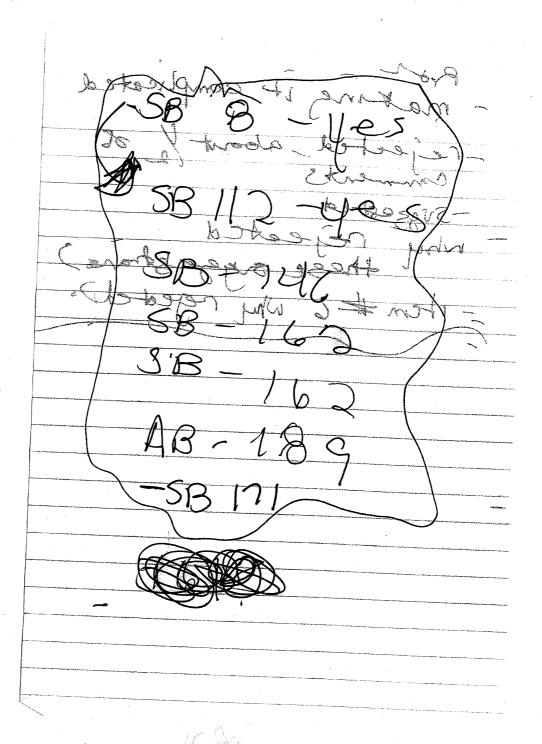
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